

# A MESSAGE FROM EPA ADMINISTRATOR MIKE LEAVITT



Congratulations to the winners of EPA's National Award for Smart Growth Achievement! EPA is proud to recognize these exceptional communities that are creating healthy, attractive, and enduring places to live, work, and play.

Innovative efforts across the country are preserving critical areas, protecting historic buildings, and providing better transportation choices that protect the environment. More and more cities are using creative strategies to enhance neighborhoods and re-use existing infrastructure.

This year, EPA is especially pleased to celebrate the extraordinary efforts of small communities. Small towns are taking advantage of their assets—such as historic buildings, walkable downtowns, lakes, and other natural features—to revitalize their economies. Small communities are preserving the unique character that makes them special and strengthens their neighborhoods, while also accommodating development that is environmentally sound.

This year's winners are excellent models of smart growth achievement. I salute these winners for their outstanding achievements and challenge others to follow their example in protecting the environment and improving the quality of life of our great nation.

Michael O. Leavitt  
EPA Administrator



Small communities, like the one featured on the cover, use walkable main streets to encourage economic development.